

MARVEL

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FINAL FLIGHT

HOUSER • FAILLA • ROSENBERG



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5.15

MAXIMUM RIDE DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER PAST.

SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE **LAB** WHERE SHE WAS GIVEN WINGS AND THE ABILITY TO FLY. SHE KNOWS ABOUT **JEB**, THE MAN WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPERIMENTING ON HER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS TO PROTECT THE REST OF **THE FLOCK** -- FANG, NUDGE, IGGY, GASMAN, AND ANGEL -- AT ALL COSTS.

AND SHE KNOWS THAT SHE HAS ONE MISSION: TO SAVE THE WORLD.

JAMES PATTERSON

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FINAL FLIGHT

ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL *MAXIMUM RIDE: SAVING THE WORLD AND OTHER EXTREME SPORTS* BY JAMES PATTERSON



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YOU MAY PROCEED WITH THE GAS. NOTIFY ME WHEN IT'S DONE.

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, DIRECTOR?

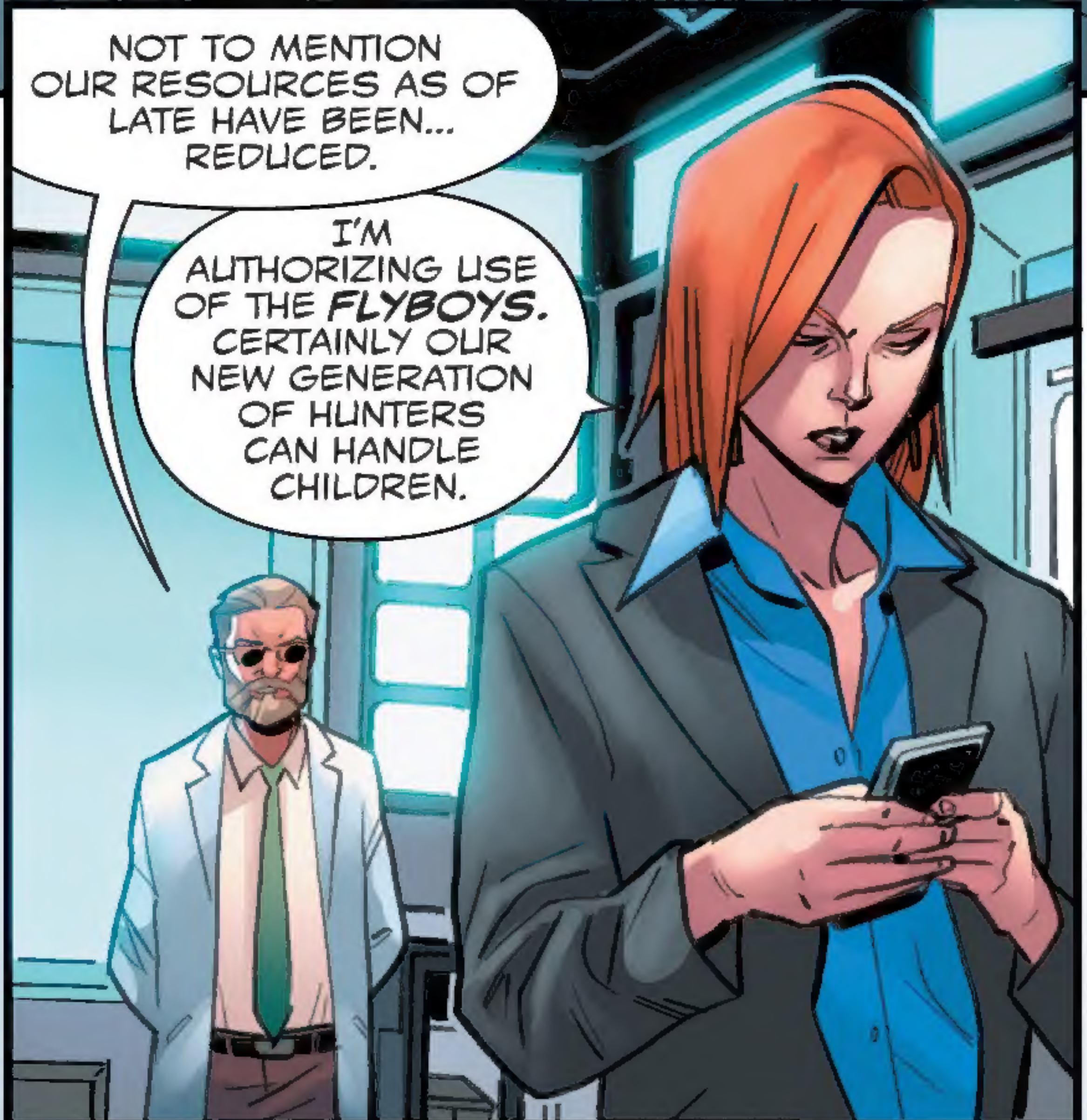
IN A TOP-SECRET LOCATION...



I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN WHY THE RECOMBINANT BIRD HYBRIDS ARE STILL ALIVE, JEB.

TRACKING **THE FLOCK** HAS PROVEN TO BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN ANTICIPATED.

SINCE MAX DEFEATED HER CLONE, THEY'VE STAYED UNDER THE RADAR.



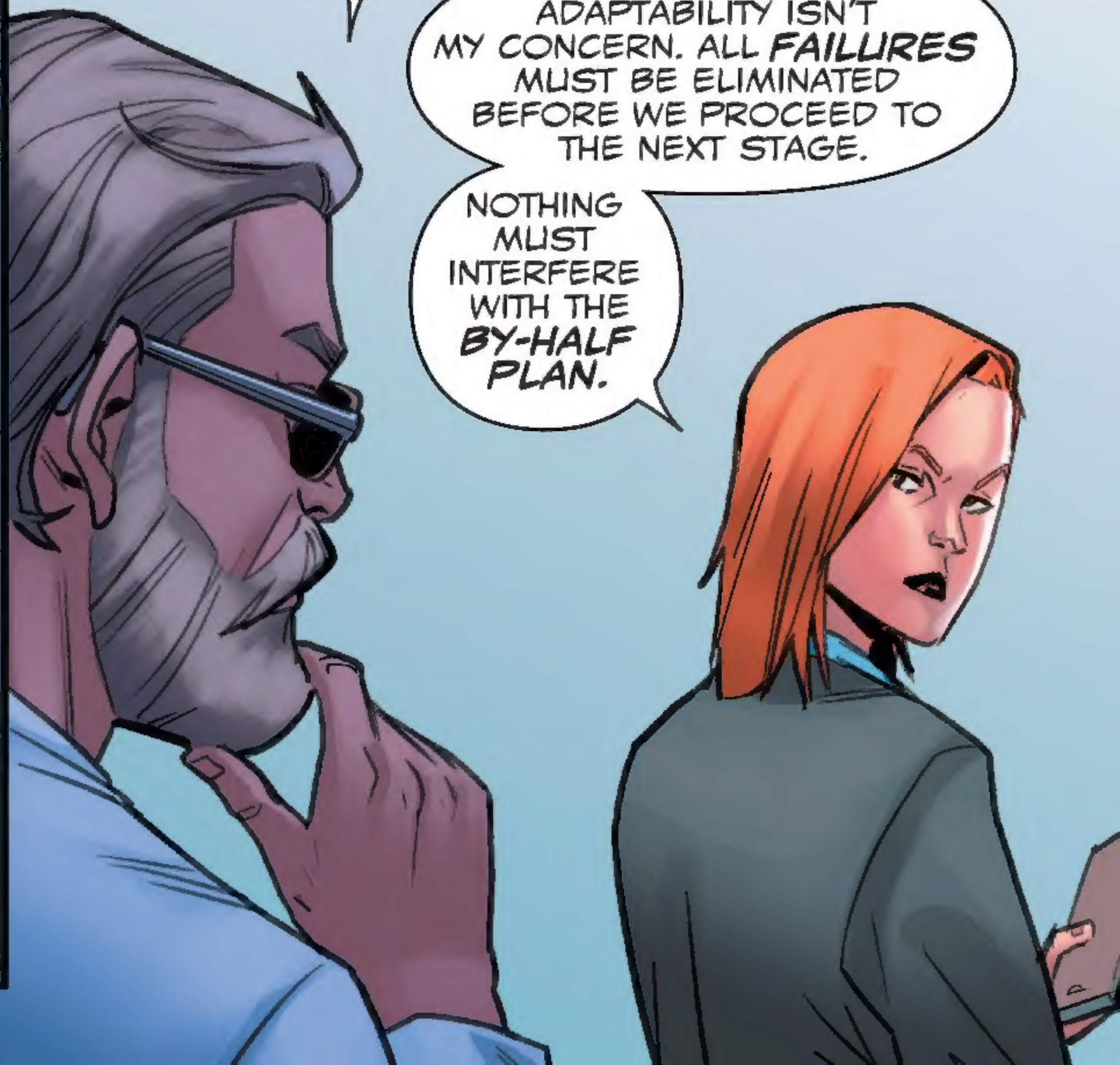
NOT TO MENTION OUR RESOURCES AS OF LATE HAVE BEEN... REDUCED.

I'M AUTHORIZING USE OF THE **FLYBOYS**. CERTAINLY OUR NEW GENERATION OF HUNTERS CAN HANDLE CHILDREN.

THESE CHILDREN HAVE SHOWN US TIME AND AGAIN THAT THEY'RE MORE ADAPTABLE THAN WE PREDICTED. PARTICULARLY MAX.

THEIR ADAPTABILITY ISN'T MY CONCERN. ALL **FAILURES** MUST BE ELIMINATED BEFORE WE PROCEED TO THE NEXT STAGE.

NOTHING MUST INTERFERE WITH THE **BY-HALF PLAN**.



"FIND THEM.
WHATEVER IT
TAKES."

THIS IS A
MISTAKE.



Cazzy

THAT WAS SO COOL!



Angel

THEY WERE CLAPPING FOR US! THEY SOUNDED SO HAPPY.



TOTAL

DID THERE HAVE TO BE **QUITE** SO MUCH SWOOPING?

IT'S BEEN QUIET. SAFE. IT USED TO BE EVERY TIME WE'D TURN AROUND, WE'D SEE MONSTERS ON OUR TAIL.

Nudge

WE COULD OPEN OUR OWN FLYING CIRCUS AND CHARGE ADMISSION. WE'D MAKE SO MUCH MONEY!



Iccy

SURE. I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A **CLOWN**.

IMAGINE **WEREWOLVES WITH WINGS**--THAT WILL GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT THE ERASERS ARE LIKE.



Fang

THE CIRCUS CAN COME LATER. FOR NOW, WE DRAW THEM OUT. MAKE THEM COME TO US.



AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE VOICE THAT POPS UP IN MY HEAD TO DELIVER INFURIATINGLY CRYPTIC WARNINGS. IT'S BEEN M.I.A., TOO.

YOU'D THINK PEACE AND CALM WOULD BE A GOOD THING. BUT TOO MUCH CALM MAKES FANG **WORRY**.

Maximum Ride

AND THEN WHAT?

WHATEVER IT IS, WE WON'T HAVE TO **WAIT** FOR THEM ANYMORE.



YOU AND THE OTHERS
WILL BE WAITING FOR
A VERY LONG TIME, MAX.

THE ERASERS
ARE ALL GONE.

I GUESS FANG'S
LITTLE STUNT GOT
SOMEONE'S
ATTENTION.

MAYBE THE MYSTERIOUS
VOICE IN MY HEAD WILL
MAKE THINGS A LITTLE
LESS MYSTERIOUS.

FOR
ONCE.



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN, "ALL
GONE"?

WHAT
ARE YOU--

IT'S THE VOICE.
THE ONE THAT TALKS IN
HER HEAD. THEY'RE TALKING
RIGHT NOW.

DEAD. I
MEAN THEY'RE
ALL DEAD.



THEY'VE ALL
BEEN EXTERMINATED.
AND THEY'RE NOT
THE ONLY ONES.



ITEX IS DESTROYING ALL OF
THE EXPERIMENTS THAT THEY
CONSIDER TO BE FAILURES.

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONES LEFT.
IT'S UP
TO YOU.



THE VOICE SAYS THAT
ITEX DESTROYED ALL OF
THE OTHER HYBRIDS.
INCLUDING THE
ERASERS.

NO MORE
ERASERS
AT ALL?

I DON'T
COUNT AS
A HYBRID,
DO I?



YEAH!
WE'RE
FREE!

I DON'T
THINK IT'S
THAT EASY...

DON'T
FORGET
THE VOICE
ALSO TOLD US
THE WORLD WAS
COMING TO
AN END.

AND THAT I'M
SUPPOSED TO SAVE
IT. **SOMEHOW.**



SO WHAT? WHY SHOULD WE STICK OUR NECKS OUT? WHAT HAS THE WORLD EVER DONE FOR **US**?

I SAY WE FIND A PLACE, A **REAL** PLACE WHERE WE CAN JUST HIDE AND LIVE OUR LIVES. AND AVOID BEING EXTERMINATED.

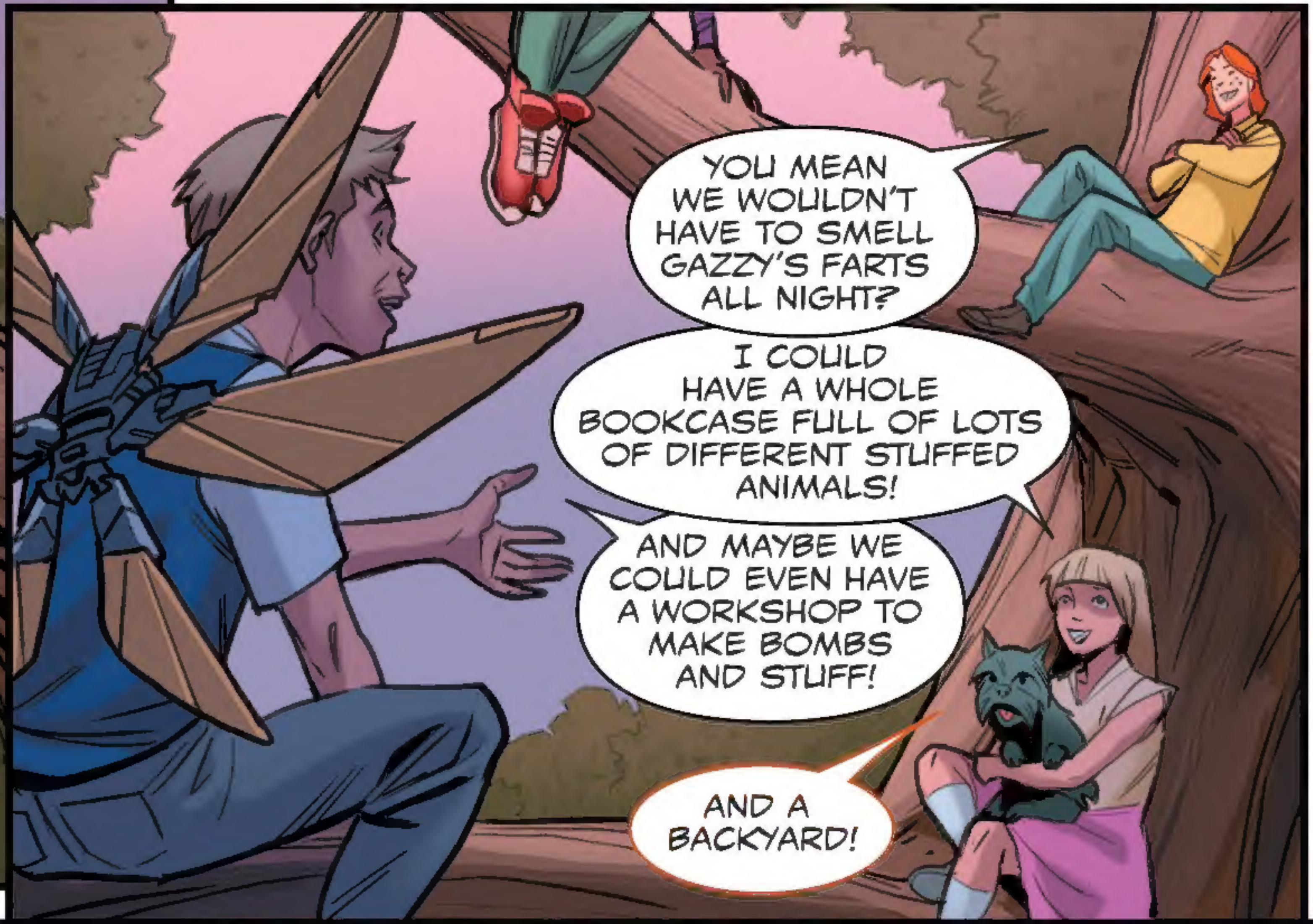
A FEW MINUTES AGO, YOU WANTED TO CALL THE ENEMY OUT.



A FEW MINUTES AGO, THINGS WERE **DIFFERENT**.

SO THEY HAVE FEWER MONSTERS TO THROW AT US. IT DOESN'T MAKE THEM ANY LESS--

WOULD WE HAVE OUR **OWN** ROOMS?

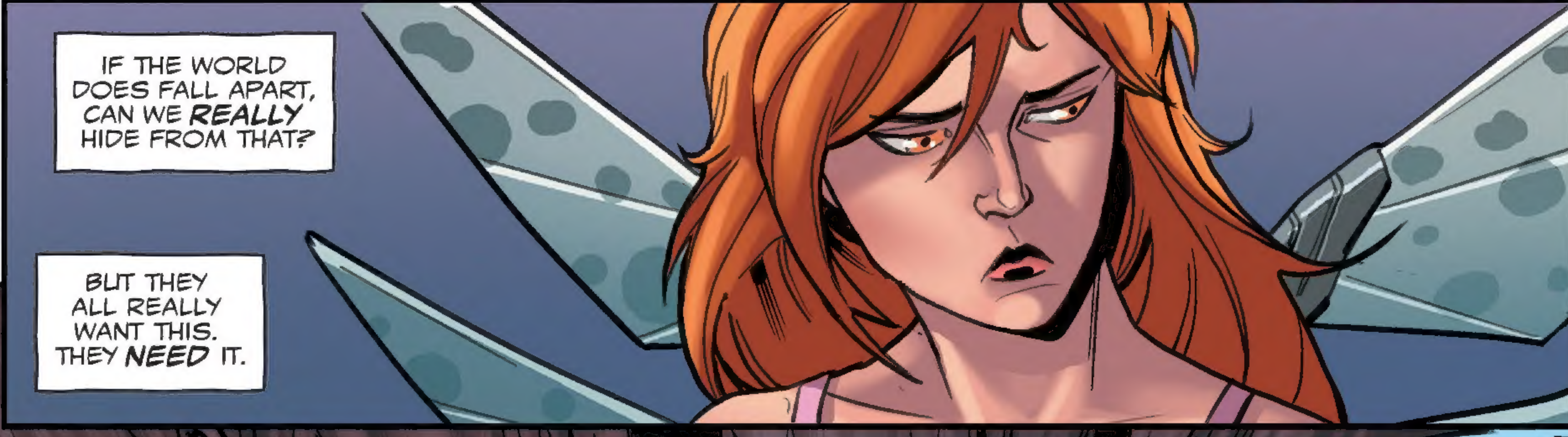


YOU MEAN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SMELL GAZZY'S FARTS ALL NIGHT?

I COULD HAVE A WHOLE BOOKCASE FULL OF LOTS OF DIFFERENT STUFFED ANIMALS!

AND MAYBE WE COULD EVEN HAVE A WORKSHOP TO MAKE BOMBS AND STUFF!

AND A BACKYARD!



IF THE WORLD DOES FALL APART, CAN WE **REALLY** HIDE FROM THAT?

BUT THEY ALL REALLY WANT THIS. THEY **NEED** IT.




I GUESS FANG AND I CAN LOOK AROUND TOMORROW AND SEE IF WE FIND SOME KIND OF HOME THAT WORKS.


YAAAAAY!

FOR NOW, LET'S FIND SOMEPLACE TO CAMP. IT'LL BE DARK SOON.

THIS IS A MISTAKE.




BUT CAN I REALLY BLAME
EVERYONE FOR WANTING
SOME PLACE STABLE?
SOMETHING SAFE?




WE HAD THAT BEFORE, OR AT
LEAST WE THOUGHT WE DID.

FIRST WITH JEB, AFTER HE BROKE
US OUT OF THE LAB CALLED
THE SCHOOL WHERE WE
WERE ENGINEERED AND RAISED.

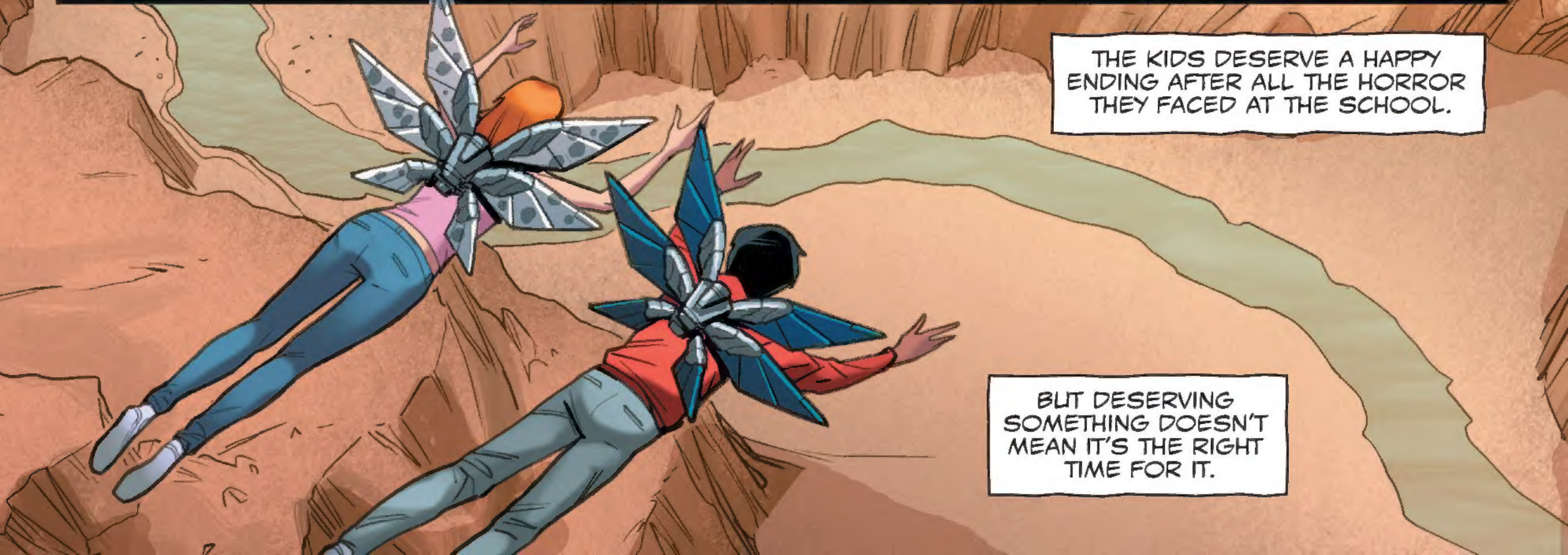


AND LATER WITH
ANNE, AN FBI AGENT
WHO TOOK US IN
AFTER FANG
WAS HURT.

IT TURNED OUT
BOTH OF THEM
WERE **WORKING**
FOR THE PEOPLE
WHO SPENT YEARS
TORTURING US.
A COMPANY
CALLED **ITEX**.



WE'RE ANYTHING **BUT** A
NORMAL FAMILY. IT'S NOT
LIKE WE CAN JUST POP INTO
A REGULAR HOUSE AND
LIVE LIKE REGULAR PEOPLE.



THE KIDS DESERVE A HAPPY
ENDING AFTER ALL THE HORROR
THEY FACED AT THE SCHOOL.

BUT DESERVING
SOMETHING DOESN'T
MEAN IT'S THE RIGHT
TIME FOR IT.



MAYBE AN
ABANDONED
FARMHOUSE OR
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT COULD
WORK.

YOU
REALLY THINK
WE'RE GOING TO
STUMBLE ACROSS
SOMETHING
FLYING AT
RANDOM LIKE
THIS?



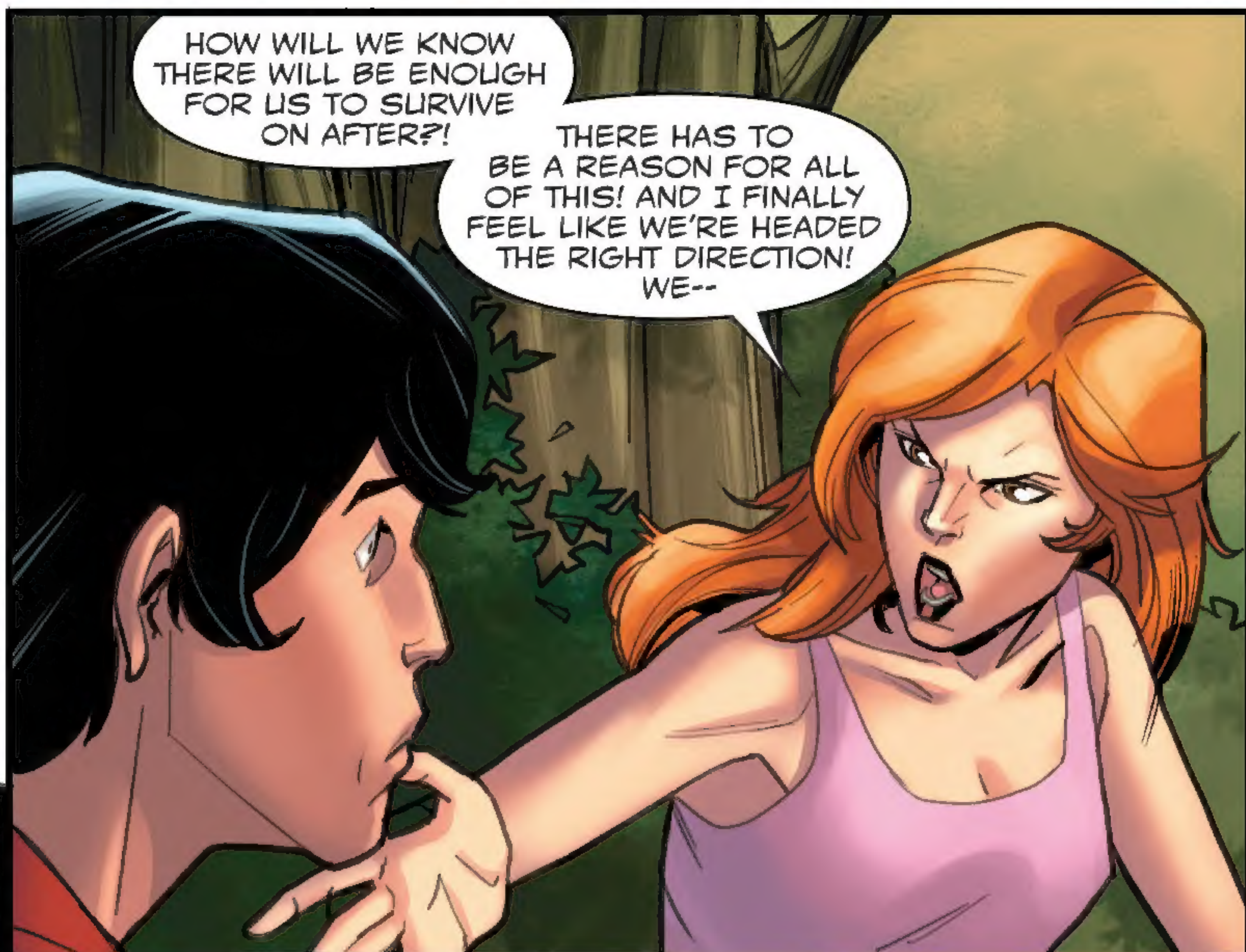
IT'S BETTER
THAN SITTING
AROUND DOING
NOTHING.

I'M NOT
SAYING WE
SHOULD DO
NOTHING.



OH YES, YOUR "MISSION"
FROM THE VOICE IN YOUR
HEAD. YOU'RE SUPPOSED
SAVE THE WORLD FROM
WHAT EXACTLY?

I DON'T KNOW,
BUT I DO KNOW WE
CAN'T LET THE WORLD
DESTROY ITSELF.



HOW WILL WE KNOW
THERE WILL BE ENOUGH
FOR US TO SURVIVE
ON AFTER?!

THERE HAS TO
BE A REASON FOR ALL
OF THIS! AND I FINALLY
FEEL LIKE WE'RE HEADED
THE RIGHT DIRECTION!
WE--



WE'RE
TOGETHER.

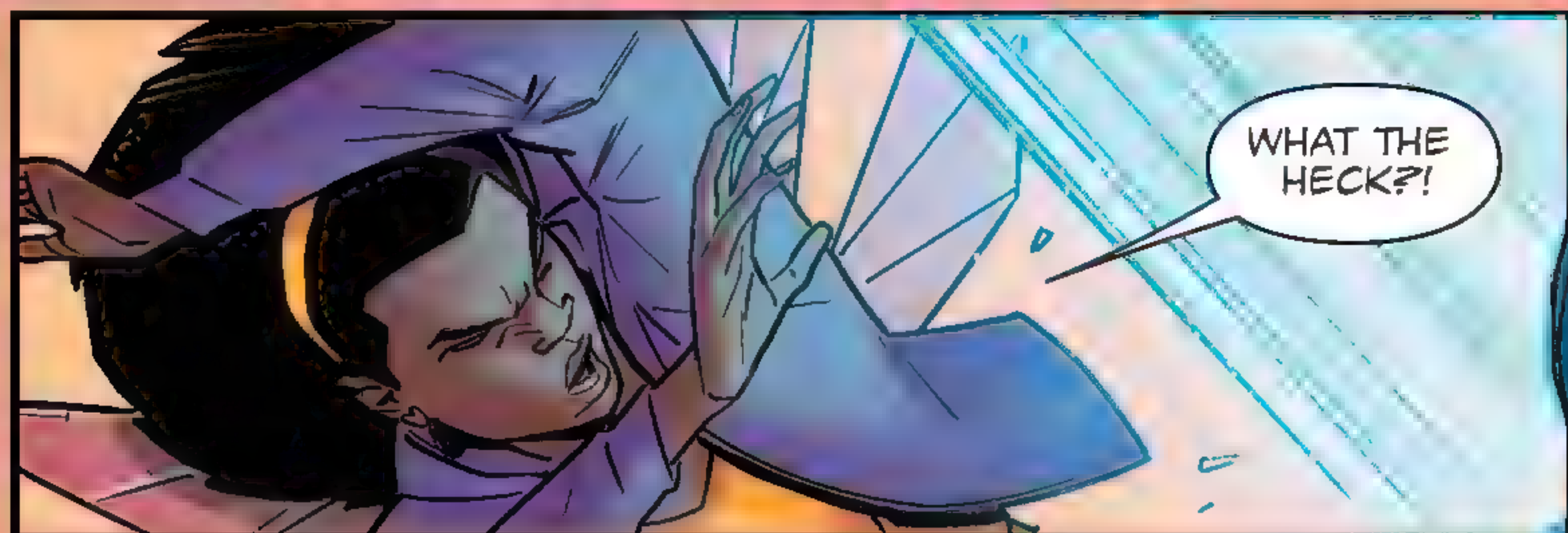
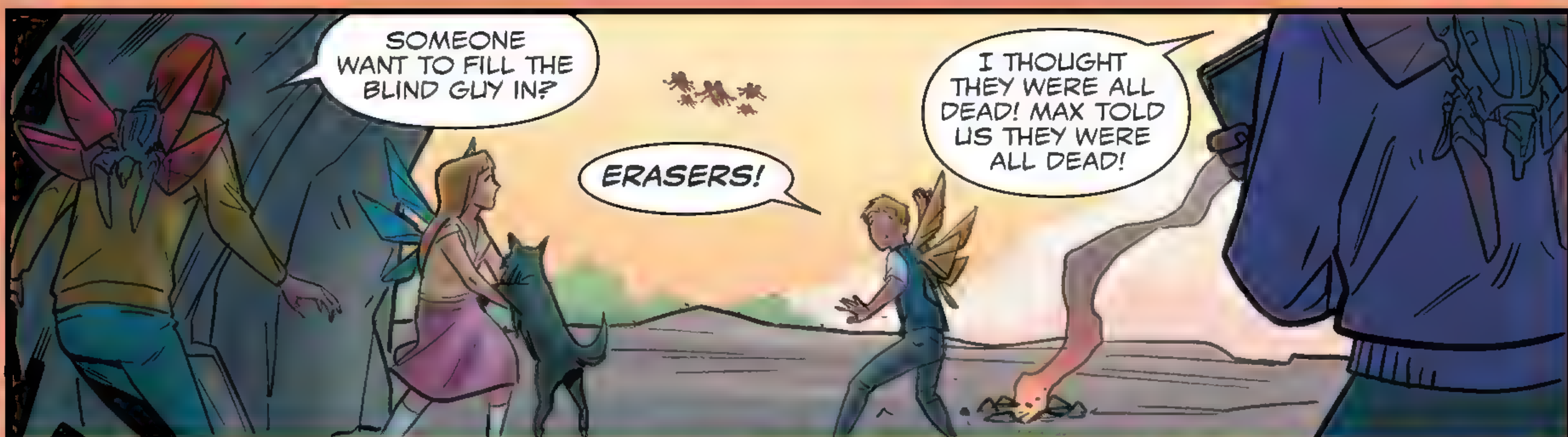


WHAT
ELSE DO WE
NEED?

YOU TWO
REALLY DO
LIKE EACH
OTHER.



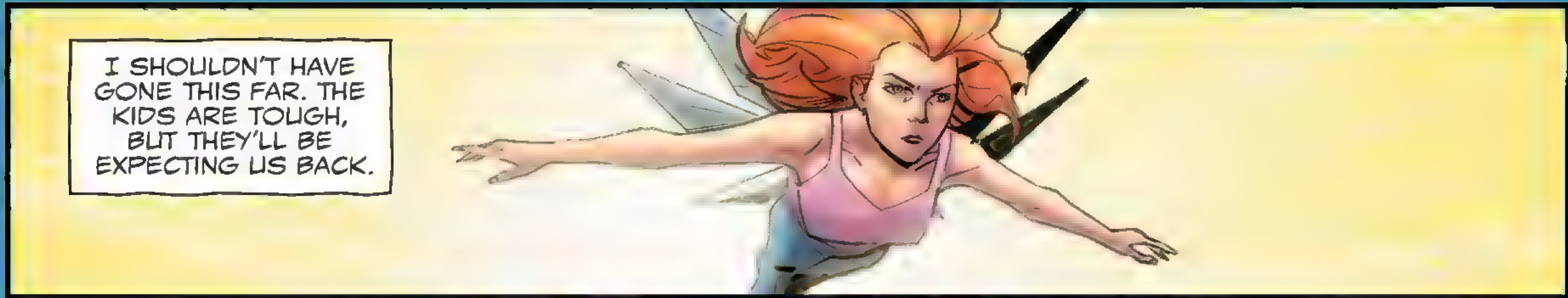
SHUT
UP.



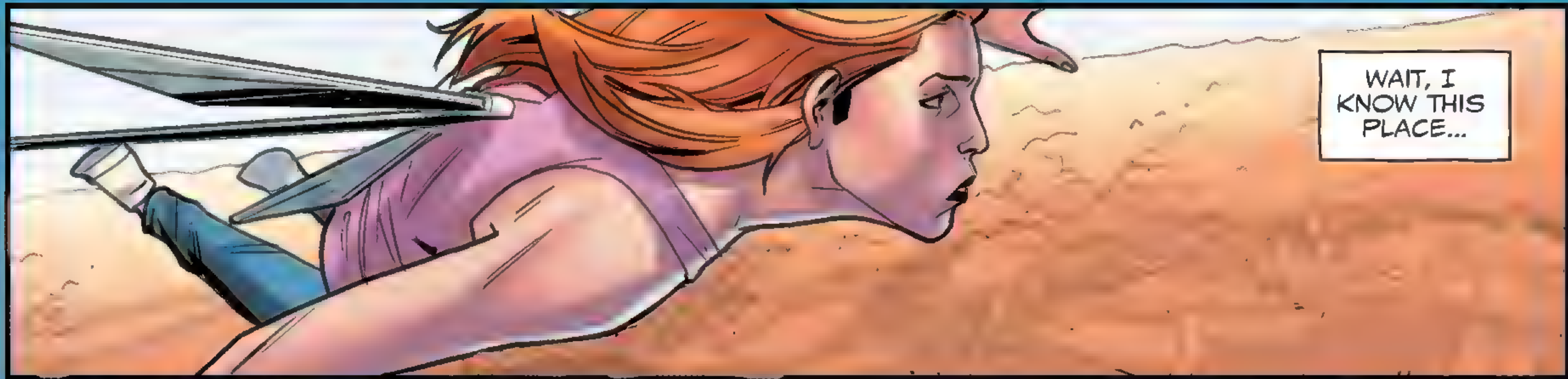


OH,
DEAR.

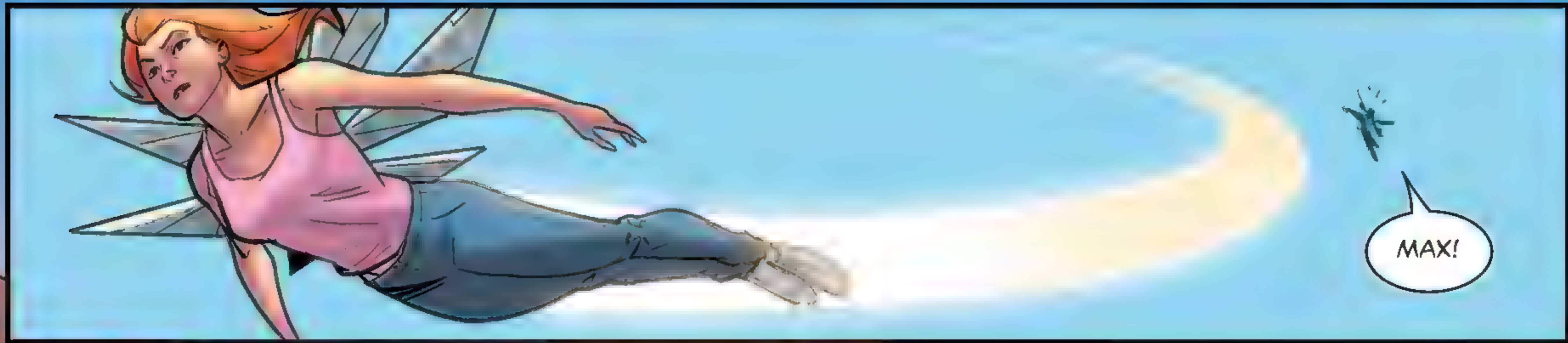
LOTS OF
ROBOTS...



I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE THIS FAR. THE KIDS ARE TOUGH, BUT THEY'LL BE EXPECTING US BACK.



WAIT, I KNOW THIS PLACE...



MAX!



MAX. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



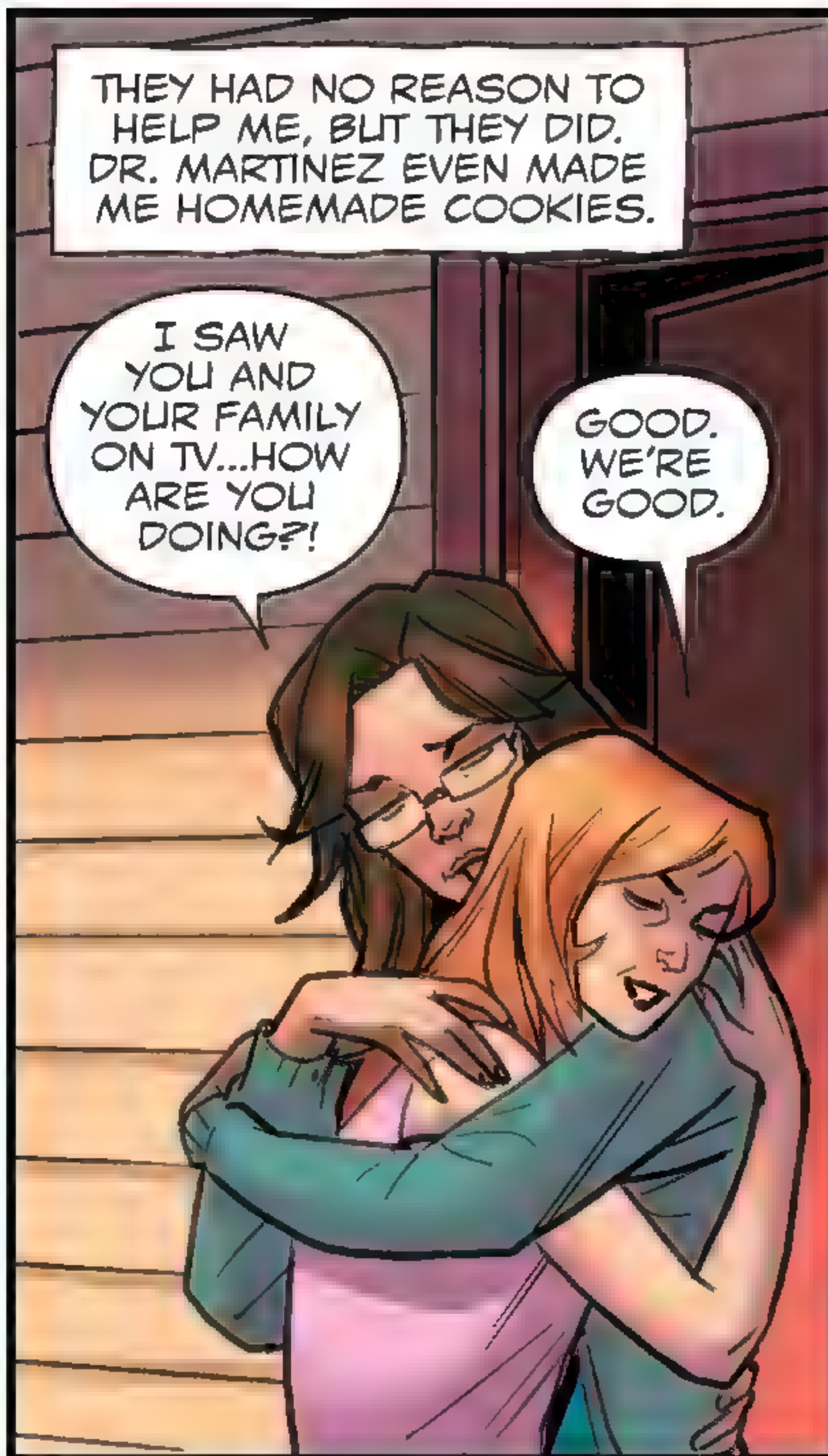
MAX, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

IT'S OKAY. THEY'RE FRIENDS.



MAX?!

DR. MARTINEZ AND HER DAUGHTER ELLA WERE THE FIRST TRULY **NORMAL** PEOPLE I EVER MET. AND THEY WERE KIND.



THEY HAD NO REASON TO HELP ME, BUT THEY DID. DR. MARTINEZ EVEN MADE ME HOMEMADE COOKIES.

I SAW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ON TV...HOW ARE YOU DOING?!

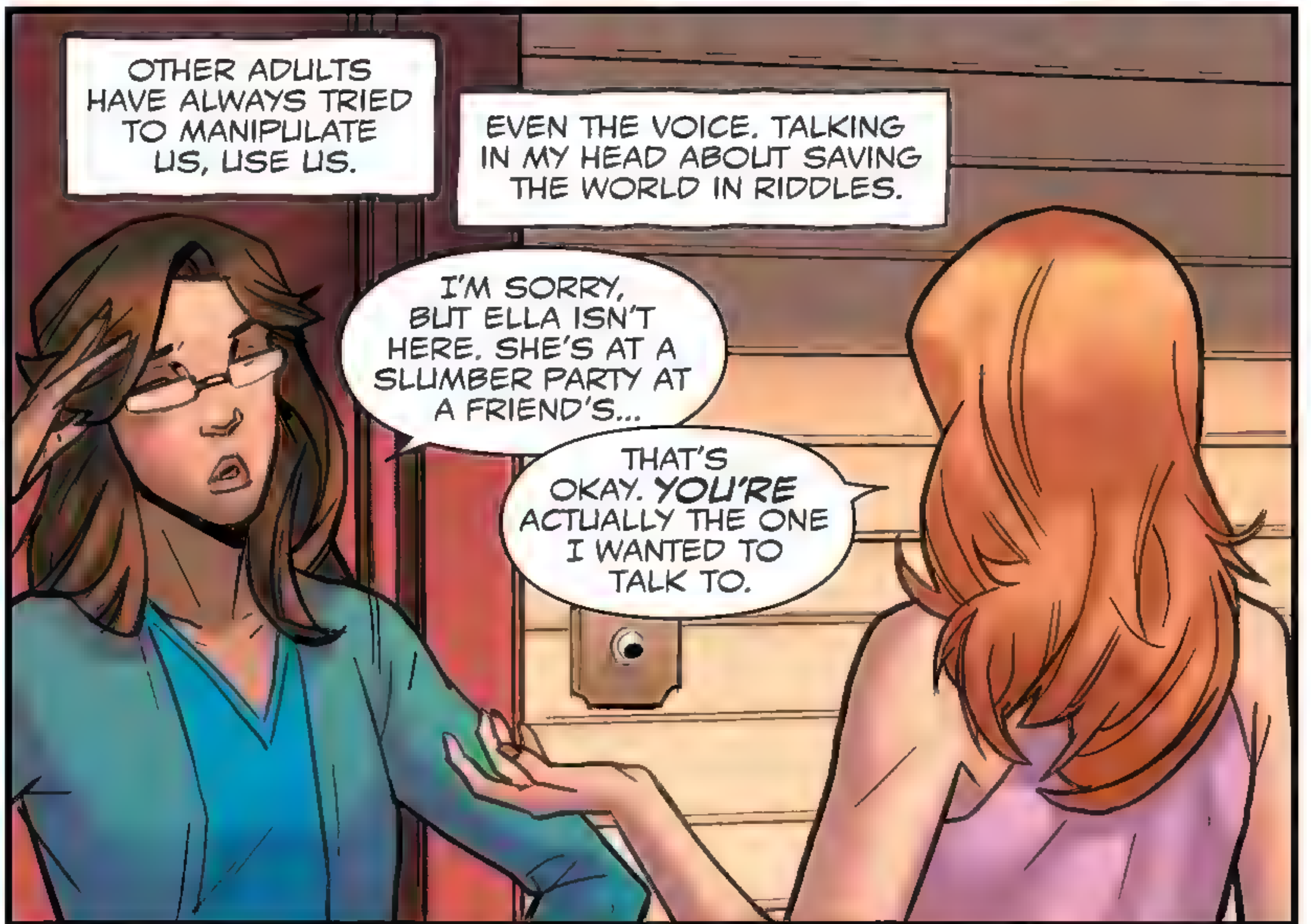
GOOD. WE'RE GOOD.



I HAVE NO REASON TO **TRUST** HER. BUT SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO NEVER WANTED ANYTHING FROM ME.

AND YOU MUST BE FANG.

MUST I?



OTHER ADULTS HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO MANIPULATE US, USE US.

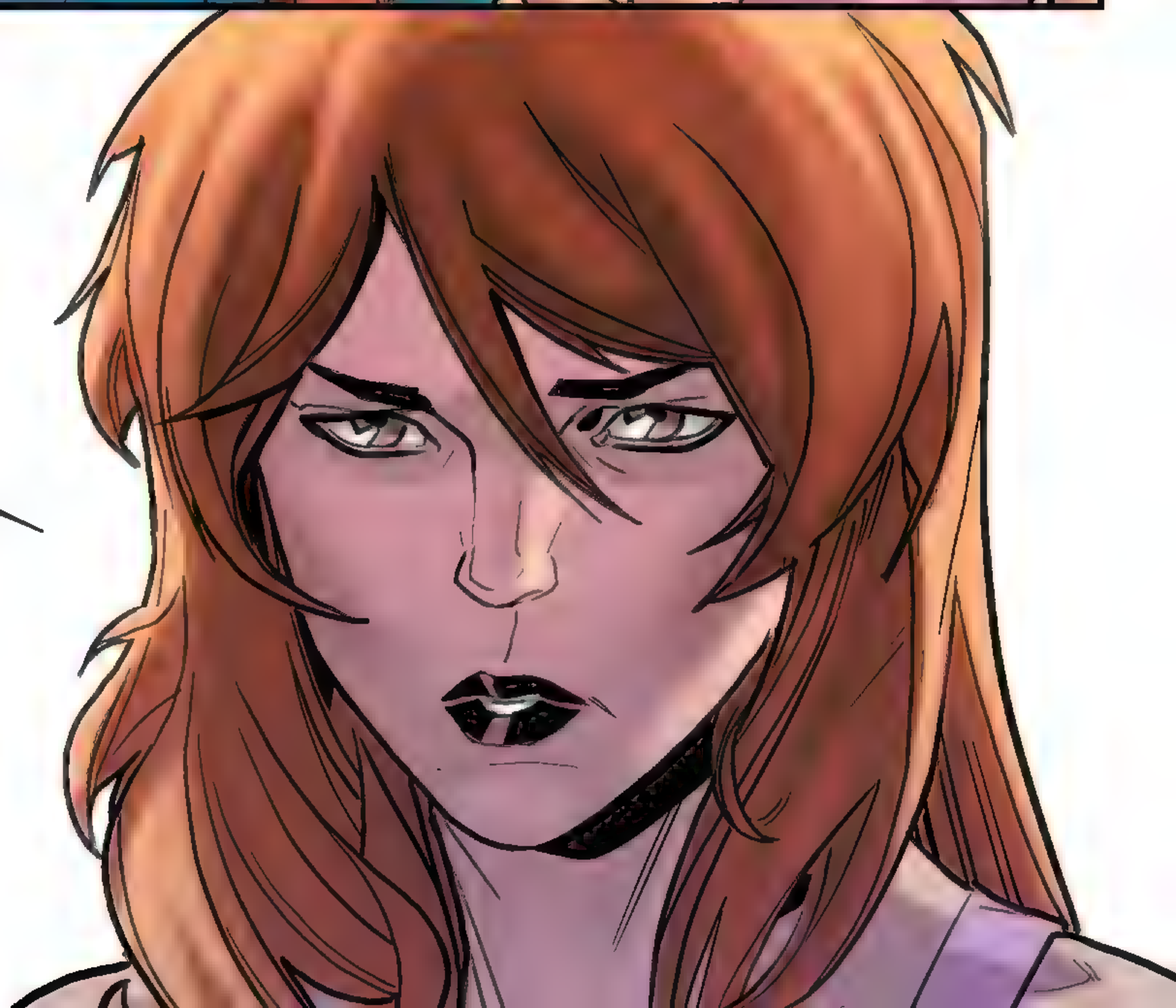
EVEN THE VOICE. TALKING IN MY HEAD ABOUT SAVING THE WORLD IN RIDDLES.

I'M SORRY, BUT ELLA ISN'T HERE. SHE'S AT A SLUMBER PARTY AT A FRIEND'S...

THAT'S OKAY. **YOU'RE** ACTUALLY THE ONE I WANTED TO TALK TO.

AND I'M TIRED OF IT. I WANT TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS.

I NEED A FAVOR.

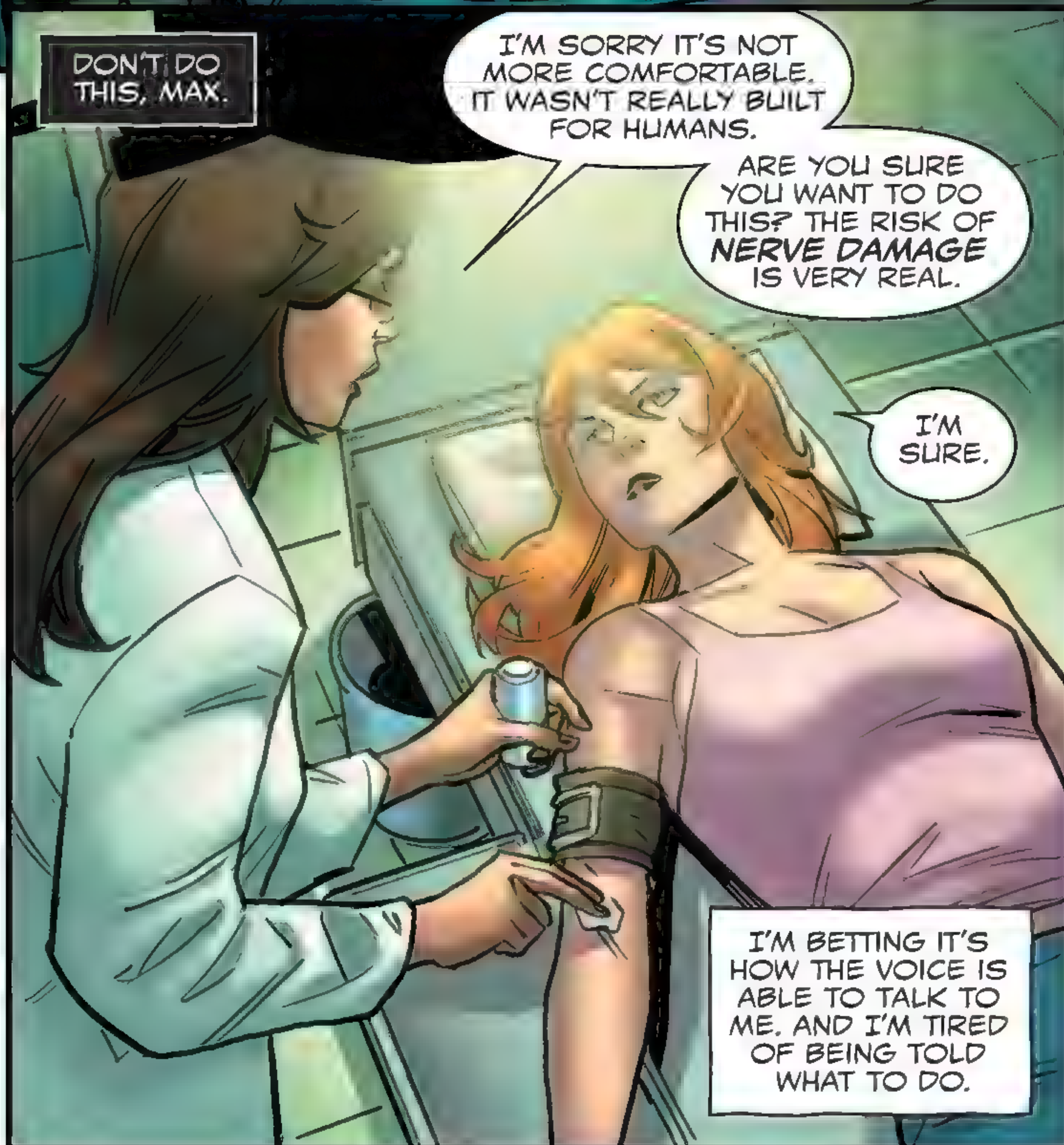




"AND IT'S
A PRETTY
BIG ONE."

THE LAST TIME I WAS
HERE, I HAD BEEN
SHOT. DR. MARTINEZ
HELPED ME.

SHE FOUND A
COMPUTER CHIP
EMBEDDED
IN MY ARM.



DON'T DO
THIS, MAX.

I'M SORRY IT'S NOT
MORE COMFORTABLE.
IT WASN'T REALLY BUILT
FOR HUMANS.

ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT TO DO
THIS? THE RISK OF
NERVE DAMAGE
IS VERY REAL.

I'M
SURE.

I'M BETTING IT'S
HOW THE VOICE IS
ABLE TO TALK TO
ME. AND I'M TIRED
OF BEING TOLD
WHAT TO DO.



THIS
IS A BAD
IDEA.

ISN'T THAT
PRETTY MUCH
EVERYTHING
WE DO?

YOU SHOULD
LISTEN TO
HIM, MAX.



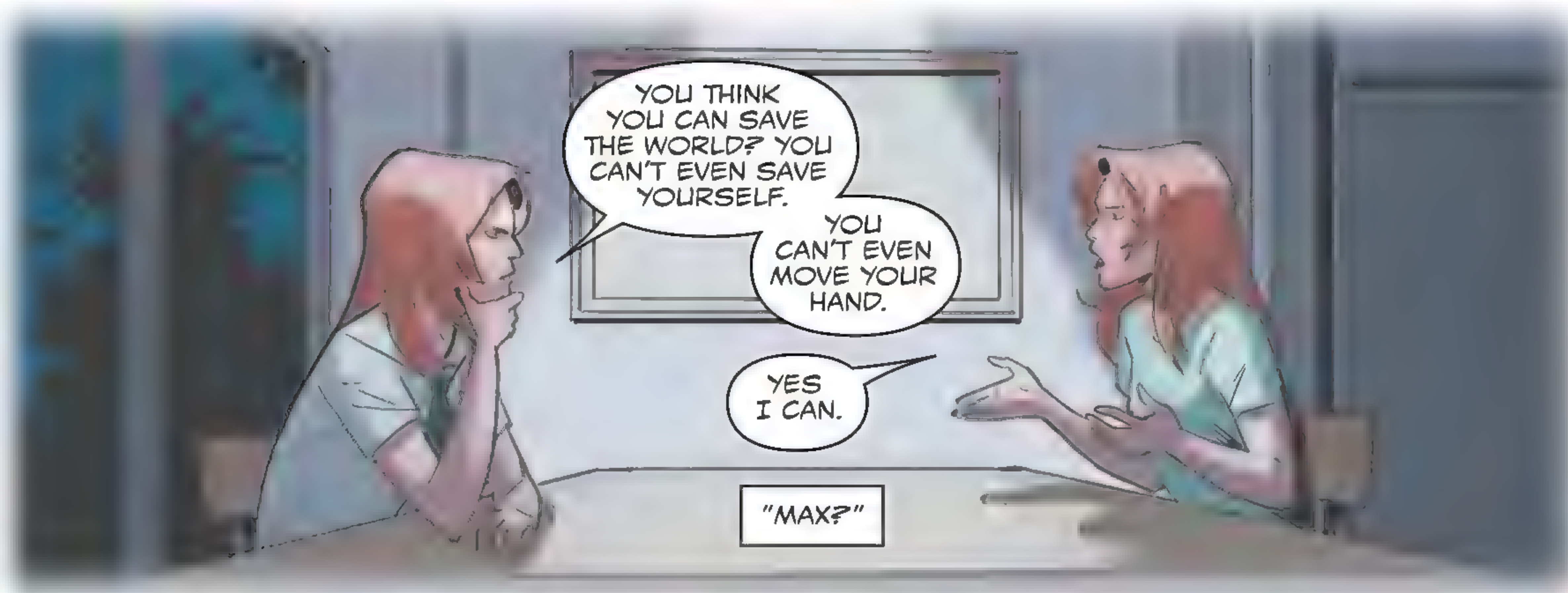
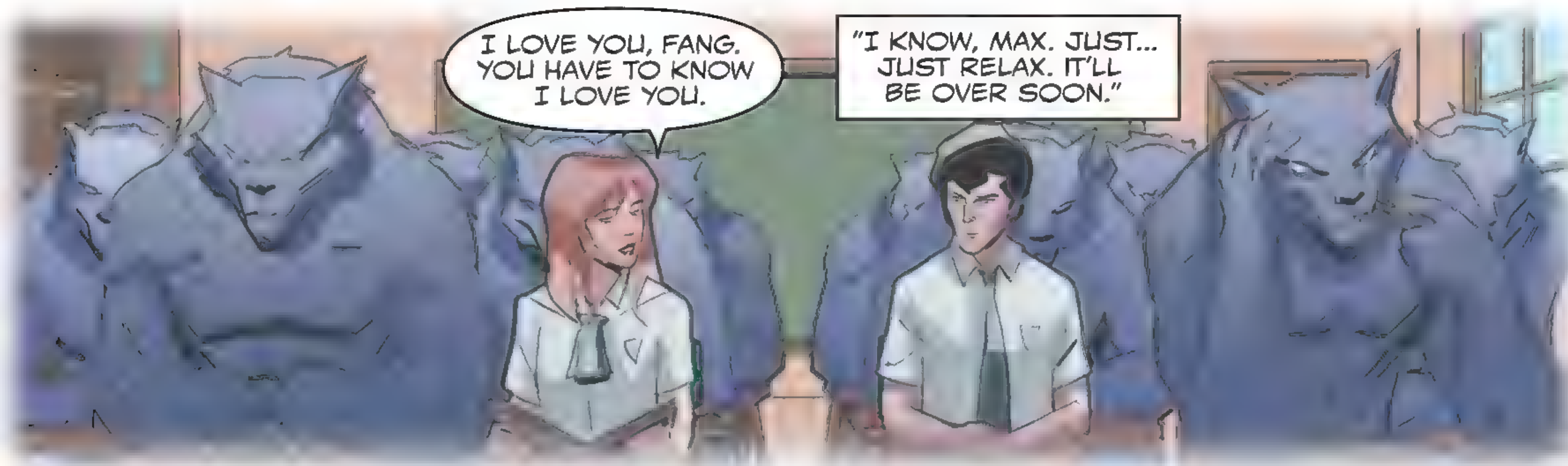
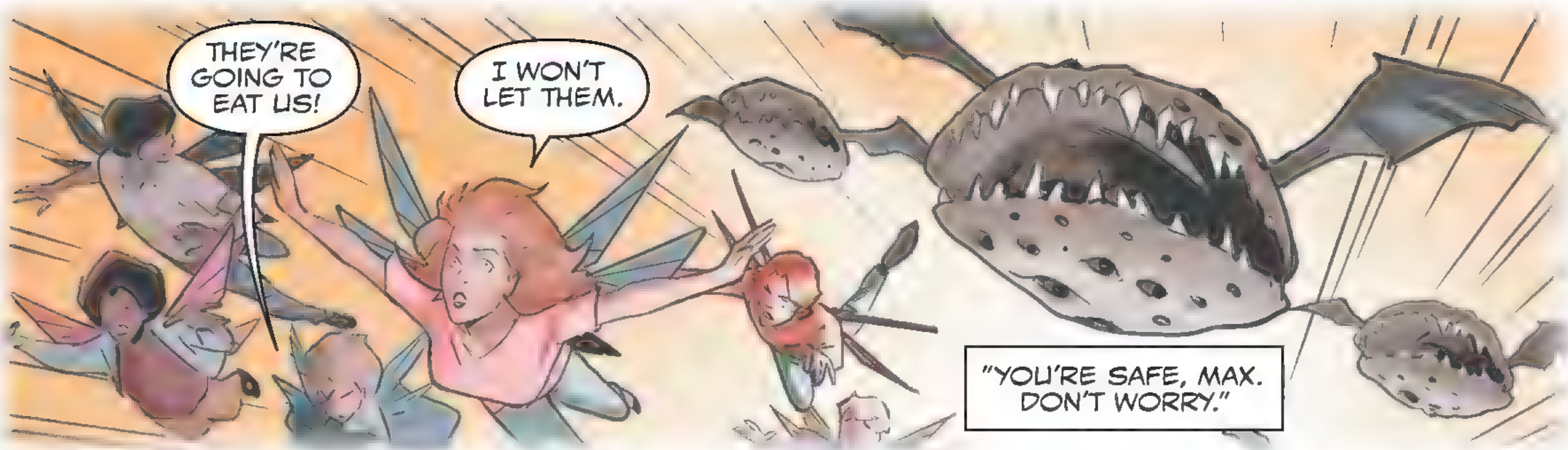
STOP, MAX.

STOP.

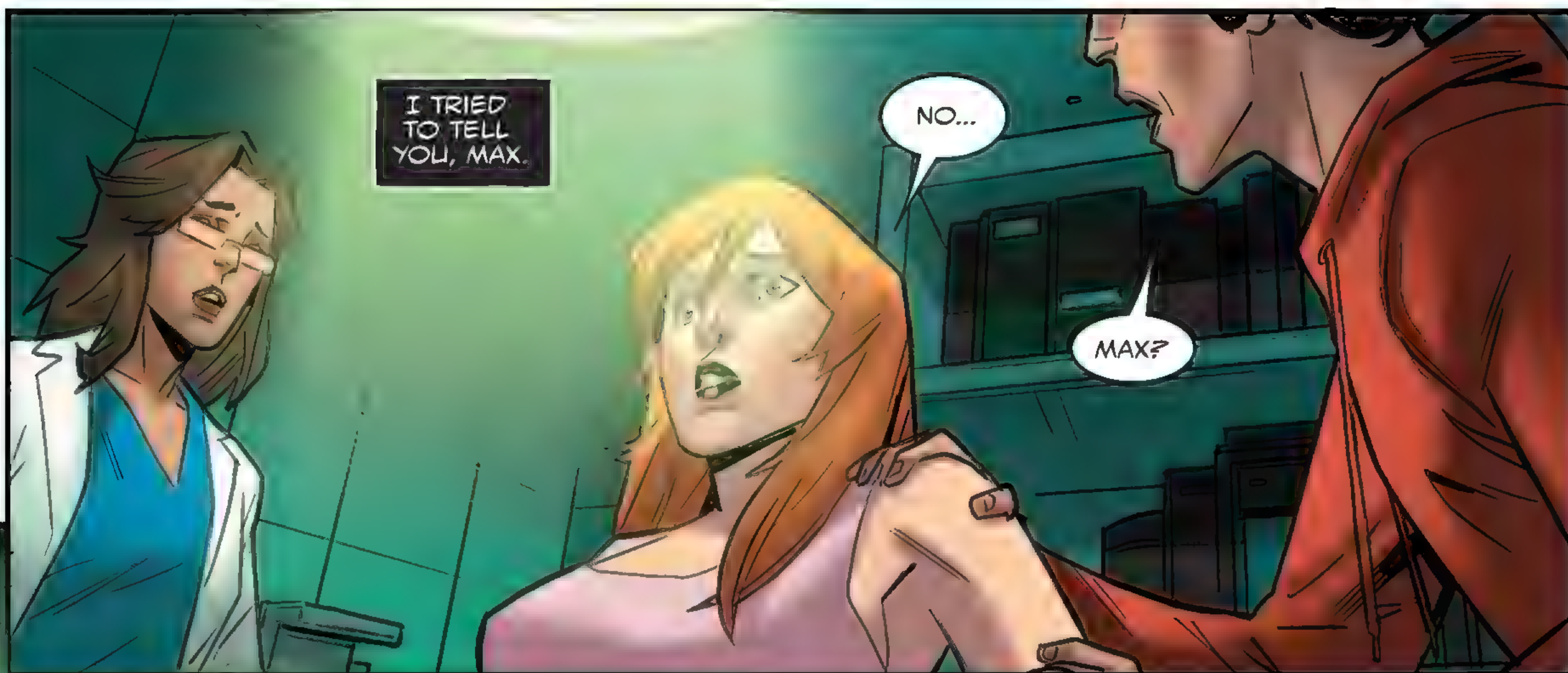
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T
WANT TO FIGHT THE
GOOD FIGHT. I JUST
WANT TO DO IT ON
MY OWN TERMS.



NO VOICES. NO
RIDDLES FROM ON
HIGH. JUST ME
AND MY CHOICES...









I KNEW
I SHOULDN'T
HAVE--

IT WAS
MY FAULT. I
MADE YOU.

I'VE MADE SOME
STUPID DECISIONS
IN MY DAY. BUT BEING
DOWN ONE HAND WITH
WHO KNOWS WHAT
COMING MIGHT
BE A NEW LOW.



NO, YOU
DIDN'T.

IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, YOU
ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE HERE. BOTH
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

I KNOW.
THANK YOU.



CAN WE
BLOW THIS
POPSICLE STAND
ALREADY?



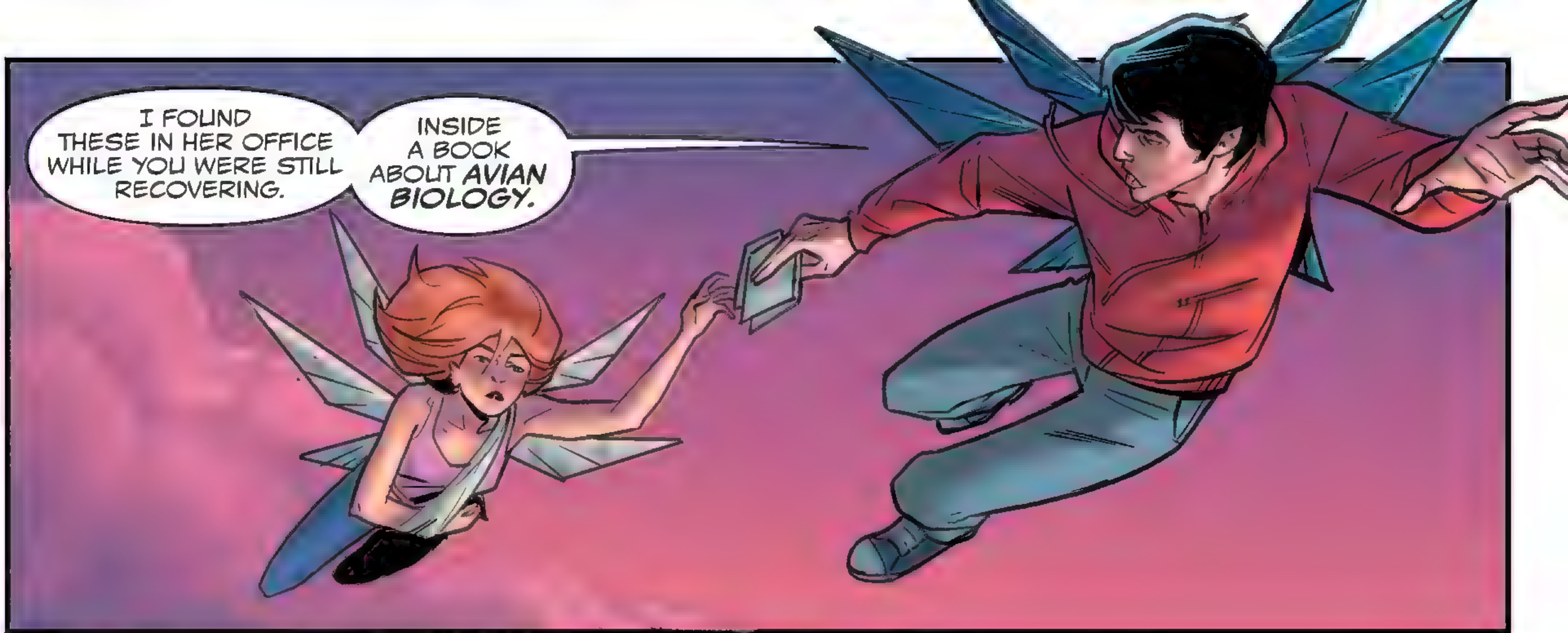
YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
TO BE SO **RUDE**.
SHE DIDN'T MEAN
FOR THIS TO
HAPPEN.

IT'S NOT
THAT.



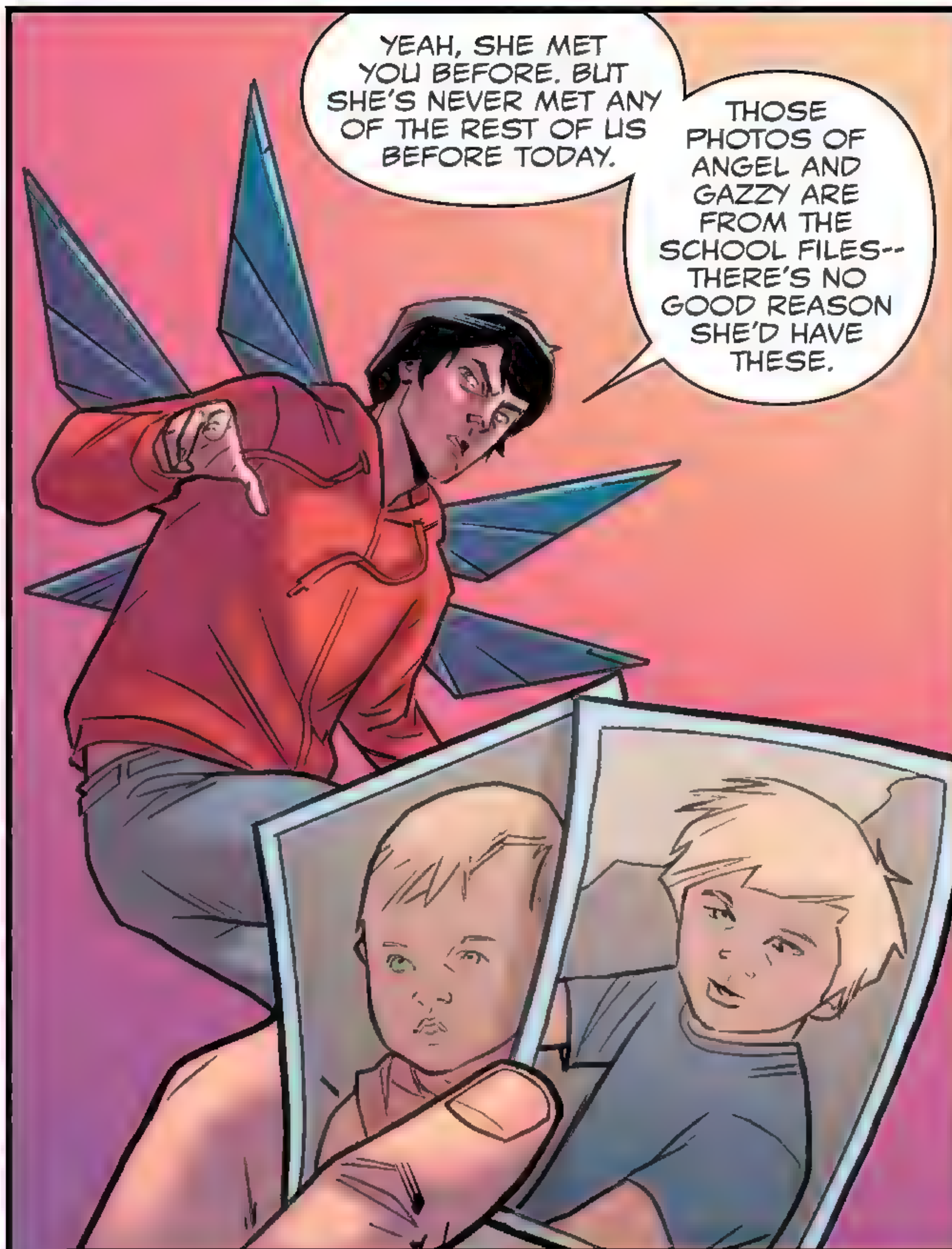
SHE'S **NOT**
WHO YOU THINK
SHE IS, MAX. YOU
CAN'T TRUST
HER.

WHAT
ARE YOU--



I FOUND THESE IN HER OFFICE WHILE YOU WERE STILL RECOVERING.

INSIDE A BOOK ABOUT AVIAN BIOLOGY.



YEAH, SHE MET YOU BEFORE. BUT SHE'S NEVER MET ANY OF THE REST OF US BEFORE TODAY.

THOSE PHOTOS OF ANGEL AND GAZZY ARE FROM THE SCHOOL FILES-- THERE'S NO GOOD REASON SHE'D HAVE THESE.

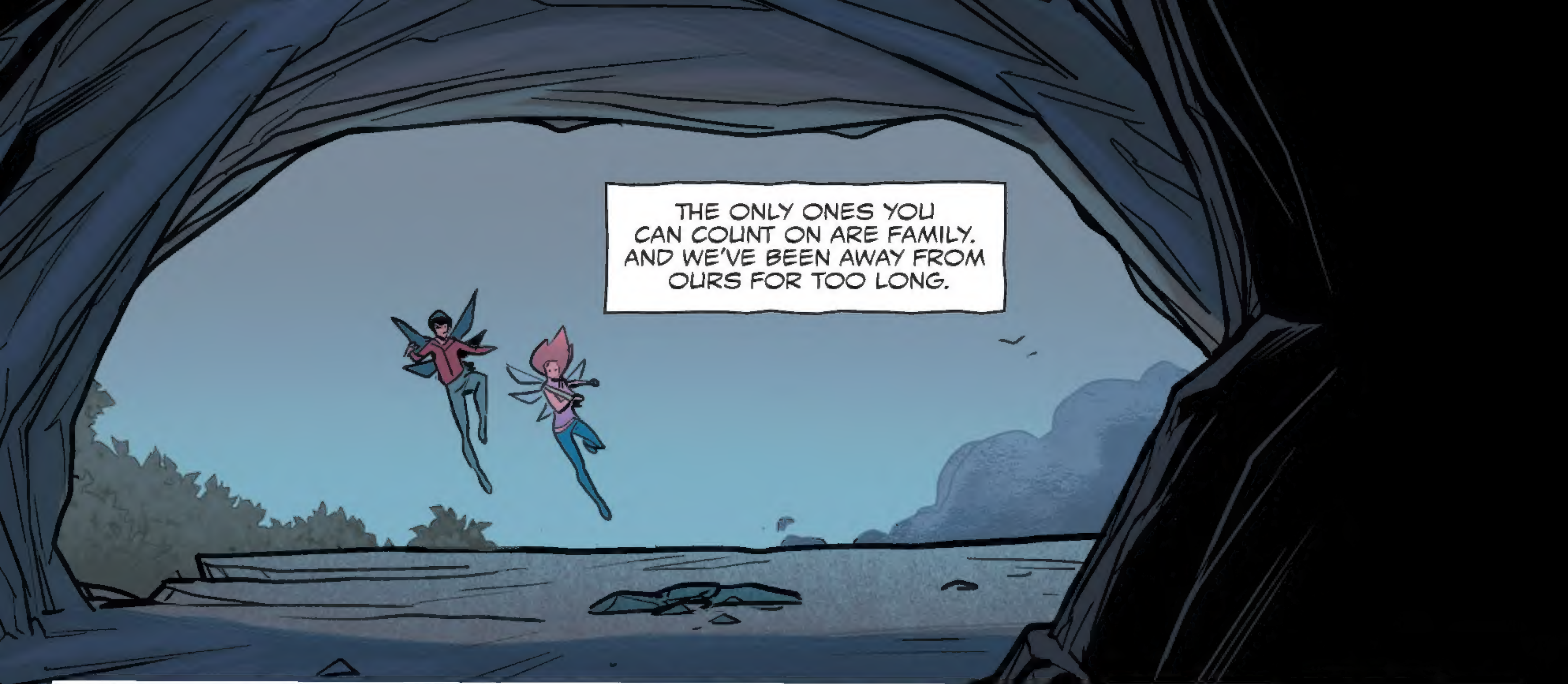


YEAH. ONLY **BAD** ONES.

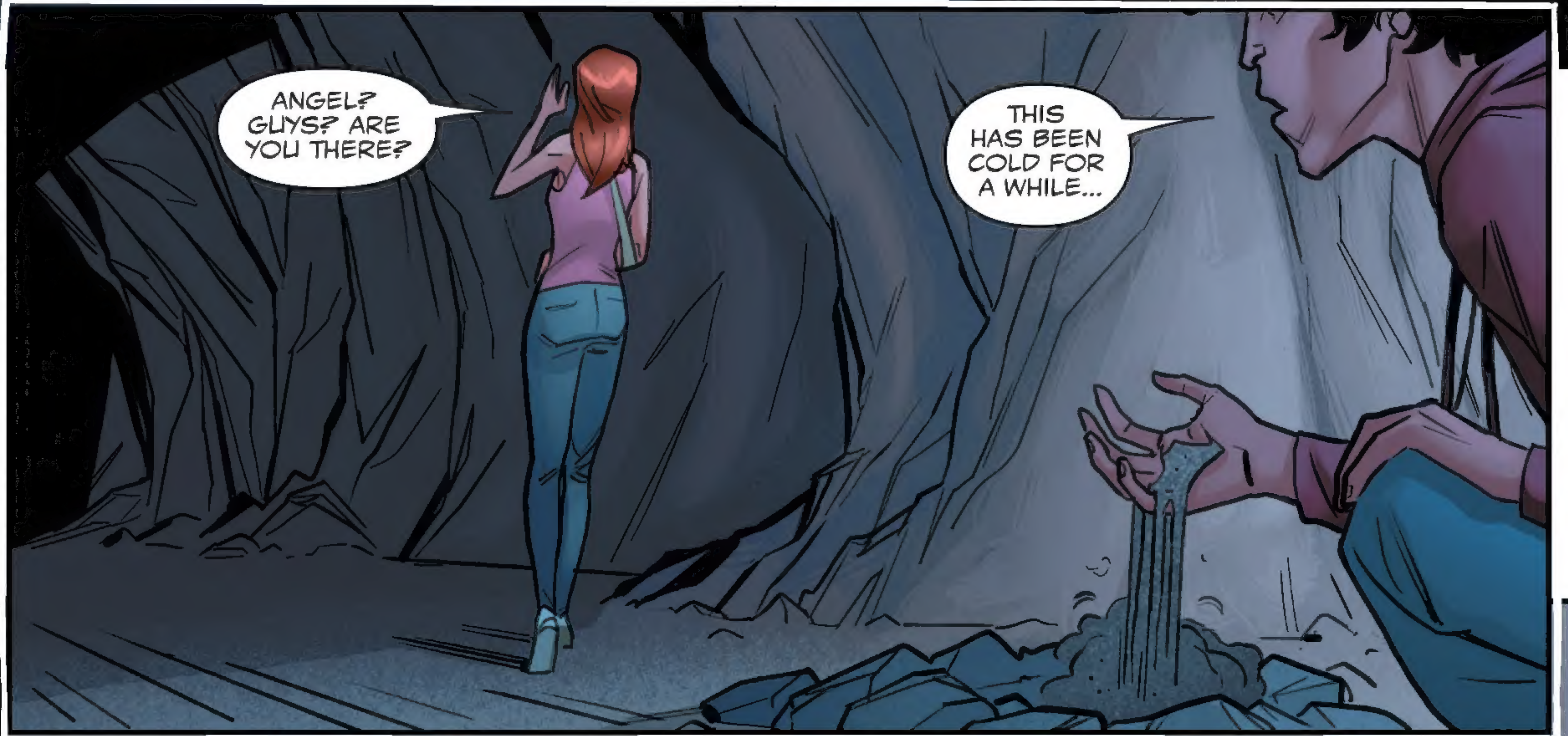


I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. YOU'D THINK I WOULD BY NOW.

SHE PROBABLY WRECKED MY ARM ON PURPOSE.



THE ONLY ONES YOU
CAN COUNT ON ARE FAMILY.
AND WE'VE BEEN AWAY FROM
OURS FOR TOO LONG.



ANGEL?
GUYS? ARE
YOU THERE?

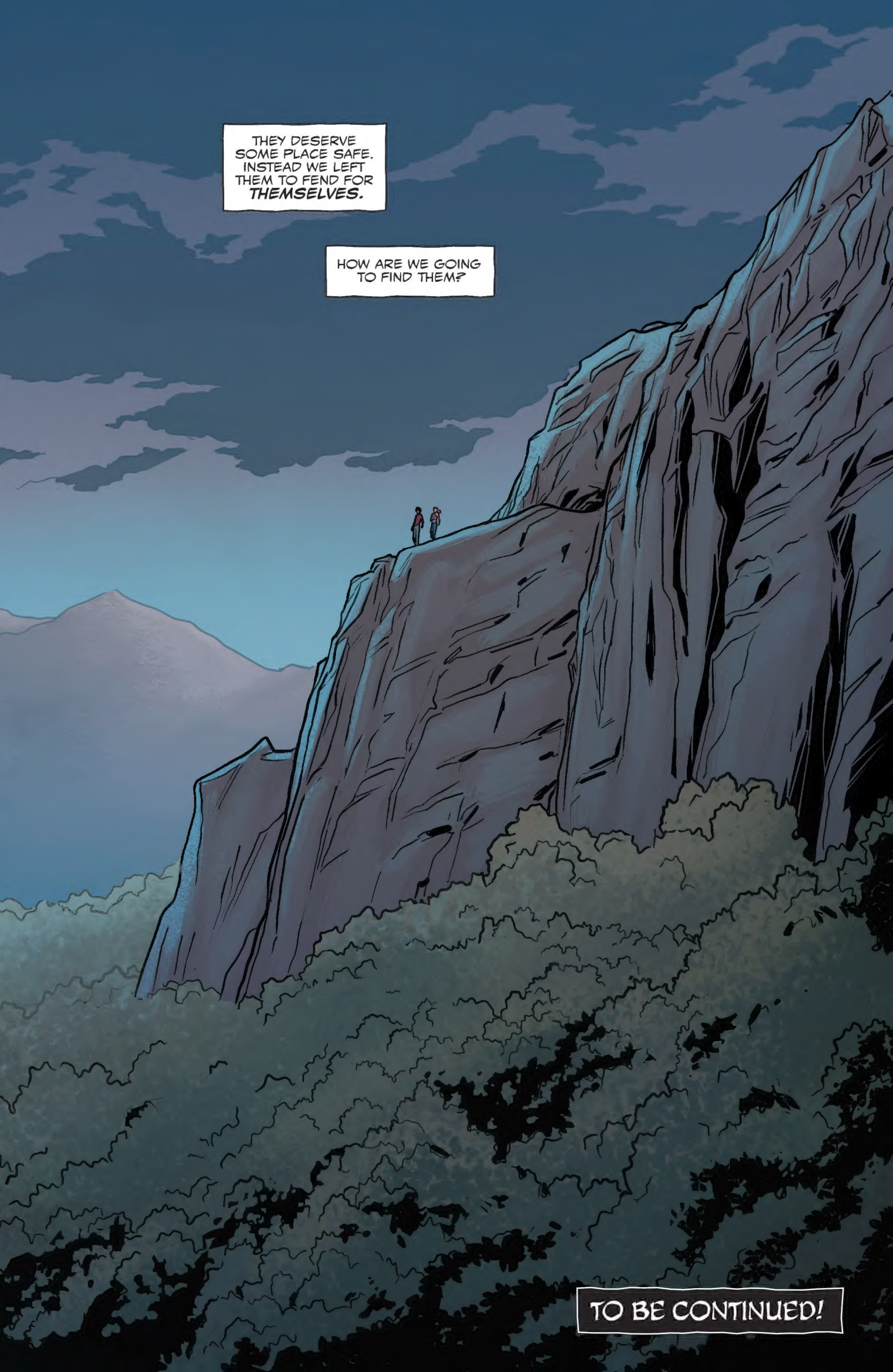
THIS
HAS BEEN
COLD FOR
A WHILE...



WHERE
ARE THEY?

THEY DESERVE
SOME PLACE SAFE.
INSTEAD WE LEFT
THEM TO FEND FOR
THEMSELVES.

HOW ARE WE GOING
TO FIND THEM?



TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

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